



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Phil Andrews

For Immediate Release

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Snow Clearing Help Available to Protect School Kids

Rockville – As winter approaches, Montgomery County Councilmember Phil Andrews (D-Gaithersburg) is reminding the public that the Winter Pedestrian Safety Act, enacted in the spring of 2001 to protect children who need to walk to school and other pedestrians, requires property owners to see to it that snow is removed from the public sidewalk adjacent to their property within 24 hours after a snowfall.

The County law only requires snow clearance of public walkways.

Andrews, who sponsored the measure and worked closely with the Montgomery County PTA to enact it, announced that CASA of Maryland again has workers available to clear snow for a reasonable fee. Residents who cannot physically shovel snow or who may be out of town during a snowstorm can contract with CASA of Maryland.

To arrange for snow removal if out of town, county residents can contact the CASA office at 301-431-4177 and contract for the services prior to a snowfall. CASA will bill the property owner when the work has been done.

For a resident who does not need to make advance arrangements, CASA will respond to requests that are phoned into their offices at the above number, once the snow has stopped falling. Requests may also be made by FAX at 301-431-1371 or by email at asalvador@casamd.org.

A resident making a request for snow removal services will be quoted a price when they describe how much snow is to be removed. This includes a description of the size of the areas to be cleared. The price of this service will average \$25. Some jobs will cost less.

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Some municipalities in the County, including Rockville, Gaithersburg, and Takoma Park, have long had similar snow-clearing requirements. Property owners who do not comply with the Winter Pedestrian Safety Act may receive a written warning. After an additional 24 hours, the property owner may receive a fine of up to \$50. The County Executive may extend the 24 hour requirement for snow clearing if conditions warrant.

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